

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

DURABLE HAY SHED.

An Investment Which No Progressive Farmer Will Ever Regret.

The yearly losses of western farmers in hay and fodder, through exposure to the weather, aggregate an enormous amount. Extensive inquiry convinces me that nearly or quite one-fourth of the feeding value of all the hay and fodder cut and put in stacks, ricks and shocks is thus sacrificed. It is nothing uncommon to see a whole meadow of little misshapen stacks and ricks so damaged and weather-bitten as not to be worth over half what it would have been if properly secured in the barn, and kept in first-class condition.

The best and strongest cheap hay shed I have seen is that shown in the accompanying cuts. Figure 1 is an end view of the framing. Posts A, of the height required, say 10 to 20 feet long, are set in the ground to form the framing of the shed, while other similar posts, E, are set four feet out from the former—that is, at the bottom, though at the top they are brought to-

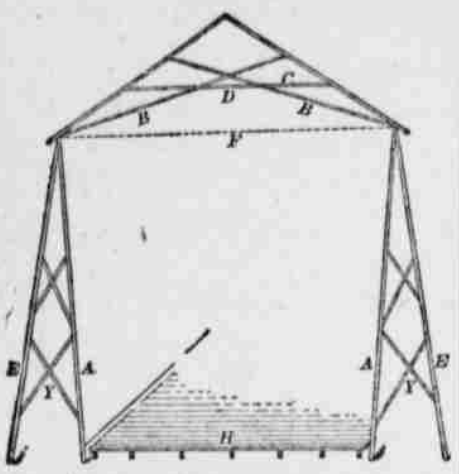


FIG. 1.—END VIEW, SHOWING FRAMING.

gether. The inner posts, A, should lean outward, so as to make the horizontal width along the dotted line, F, two feet more than the floor width at H. The posts A and E are placed directly opposite each other, and braced together as indicated at Y. The rafters may be of the usual structure, which would require cross ties, or joists, at F; or else a truss frame may be made as indicated at B B and C. A roof on such a truss frame will not spread, and the hay carrier may be swung at D.

Fig. 2 represents the shed weather-boarded down to within six feet of the floor. The door, A, may be hinged so as to swing down, or may be made double and open into the barn. In either case the space for admitting the hay should be at least six feet square, and, in fact, eight feet is better. The rail for the hay carrier would extend out at B, if truss roof is used; in ordinary roof, the carrier would be at top of rafters. If long enough posts (A and E, Fig. 1) may not be had, use the longest available 2x6 pieces, and spike strongly the lower ends to short posts placed well in the ground.

A drive crosswise through this shed would be more convenient in many ways. If the hay is to be baled, the bales could be conveniently stored. If intending to bale, put the hay into the shed in sections, ten to twelve feet long, the entire width of the shed, as it will be much more convenient that way for getting out. Indeed, it will be the better way even if the hay is to be hauled out, in which case arrange the floor so as to back the wagon under at K, Fig. 2. A shed of this style can be built 20 feet wide and 18 feet high, at a cost of only \$2 to \$2.50 for each ton of contents, and it will last 20 years. The siding, S

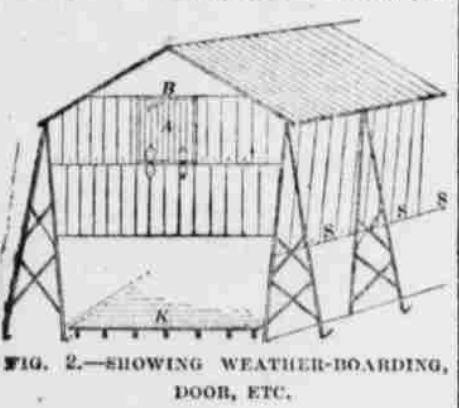


FIG. 2.—SHOWING WEATHER-BOARDING, DOOR, ETC.

E S, may be of cheap material, as the slight slant inward will prevent the water from running in. The floor, for economy's sake, may be of rails or poles.

The practice of cutting up and shredding the fodder is rapidly gaining ground. A shed built built on the foregoing plan would answer admirably for storing such feed. Slats would have to be nailed across the lower openings, of course. The elevator would carry the cut fodder in at the door, A. It is hardly necessary to say that when barn room and protection for stock are to be taken into account, in addition to economy of handling, it is cheaper to so construct the building as to give up the entire floor space to stock, using only the upper part for feed.—G. W. Waters, in St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.

NOTES FOR BEEKEEPERS.

Bees, small fruit and poultry make a good combination.

The queen bee is the only perfectly developed female in the hive.

The queen lives several years and is useful as a laying queen for three years.

A young queen is more liable to produce a working progeny and an old one drones.

In the spring if a frame of dirty comb is put in the hive the bees will clean it up and make it fit for use.

Worker bees are undeveloped female bees, and are hatched from the same kind of eggs that the queens are.

A good, strong colony of bees, located where there is plenty of honey-producing flowers will, with good management, produce 100 pounds of comb honey and still allow another strong colony to be made from it.—St. Louis Republic.

SERVIAN BEE FARMS.

They Are to Be Conducted on Strictly Scientific Principles.

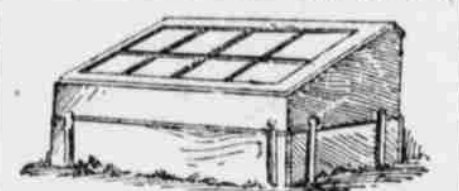
A new industrial departure of great interest has been taken in Servia, where a "society for bee and fruit culture" has been established, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. This society seeks to introduce a system of beekeeping on scientific principles, and of developing the industry on a profitable basis throughout that country, where, until lately, the peasants have been in the habit of keeping their bees in conical straw skeps daubed with mud or plaster, and destroying the bees to obtain the honey. It is probable that the society will provide the peasants with cheap straw skeps with supers, as well as bar-framed hives and other desirable agricultural appliances. The farm of the society contains about 200 hives, placed in regular rows over the ground, six feet six inches from each other, facing north. These hives are all on the bar-frame principle, and of the pattern generally known as Dzierzon hives, and they contain about 80 pounds of honey in the comb when full. They are made of wood, with draw sides, and cost about \$2.25 each. The bees appear to be a species of the common bee (*Apis mellifica*), but are rather small in size, and unusually tractable. The Italian bee (*Apis ligustica*) does not succeed well in Servia, becoming quickly merged into the indigenous stock.

The bee farm is provided with two centrifugal honey-extractors of very simple design, but perfectly practical. After extraction, the honey is put into glass bottles, with neat screw tops, imported from Austria, containing respectively half pound, one pound and two pounds. The price of the honey is about 17 cents a pound, exclusive of the bottle, for which an extra charge is made. The wax is sold to the wax dealers for making into church candles, and realizes about 30 cents a pound. The importance of encouraging bee culture is evidently fully realized by the members of this society and others interested, and the introduction of a law is in contemplation obliging all priests, schoolmasters and certain others holding employment under the government to turn their attention to the keeping of bees.

SHELTER FOR CHICKS.

Excellent Device for Keeping the Brood Warm and Comfortable.

It is not a difficult matter to hatch out chicks early with hens. It is a more difficult matter to make them live and grow when hatched in cold weather. They must stay under the hen almost constantly in order to keep warm, but after a few days the hen



will not continually brood them, even if cold, and the chicks become chilled. The engraving shows a device for keeping the brood warm. It is a coop with glass top set on top of a pen filled with heating horse manure. It is, in fact, a coop on top of a hot bed. The bottom of the coop is of thin boards, so that sufficient warmth will go up into the coop to make it very comfortable. The hen and the chicks are placed inside and sand and chaff given to scratch in. A score of early chicks can thus be raised that will set to laying early in the fall.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Indigestion in Poultry.

Indigestion is one of the commonest troubles of fowls and one of the most easily prevented. Grit takes the place of teeth with fowls. It requires to be sharp in order to grind up the food and prepare it for digestion. Yet how often is the supply deficient? Crushed oyster shells or sharp gravel should be accessible to the hens. Acidity of the stomach is the result of indigestion. It may be corrected by mixing very fine pulverized charcoal with the food or by keeping a supply of broken charcoal in the neighborhood of the fowls. One of the best methods of giving it is to chafe a couple of corn-cobs once a week in the oven and then let the fowls have them to peck at. The feeding of charcoal is excellent at all stages of the hen's existence, but it is particularly desirable when the fattening process is going on.

Feeding Bees for Profit.

Many beekeepers must change their location, go to the flowers, or change their methods of management. The beekeeping public says at present, and perhaps always will say, that sugar-honey must not be produced, but there is no objection to bees living on a cent sugar instead of 15-cent honey. It has been estimated, and we think fairly, that a colony of bees consumes 60 or 70 pounds of honey during the year. If a good portion of this can be cheap sugar instead of high-priced honey, it may make all the difference between a fair profit and a serious loss. A change to a better location is preferable, if a change can be made, as there is more profit in plenty of honey from natural sources than in exchanging sugar for honey in a poor locality.—Southern Cultivator.

The Control of Swarming.

To control swarming, remove one of the prime factors. Brood is the only factor we can remove and not defeat our object—honey. The removal of brood, instead of decreasing the honey yield, rather increases it. We may remove the brood by direct confiscation, or we can do it more gradually by the removal of the queen. The first method would be better where the flow is very short and profuse, the second better where the flows last 40 to 60 or more days. The cause of swarming is instinct; its control, broodlessness. Other methods at times seem effective, but the only method of controlling swarming that is at all times a success, is broodlessness.—Southern Cultivator.

IN WASHINGTON'S DAY.

A Picture of Colonial Virginia—How Vast Landed Estates.

Virginia, the oldest of the colonies, was least to be distinguished by any private character of her own from the rural communities of England herself. Her population has come to her almost without selection throughout every stage of quick change and troubled fortune that England had seen during the fatal days since James Stuart became king; and Englishmen in Virginia were in no way radically distinguishable from Englishmen in England, except that they were provincials and frontiersmen. They had their own tasks and ways of life, indeed, living, as they did, within the old forests of a virgin continent, upon the confines of the world. But their tastes and temperament, spite of change and seclusion, they had in common with Englishmen at home. They gave leave to their opinions, too, with a like downright confidence and hardihood of belief, never doubting they knew how far practical matters should go. They had even kept the English character as they had received it, against the touch of time and social revolution, until Virginians seemed like elder Englishmen. England changed, but Virginia did not. There landed estates spread themselves with an ample acreage along the margins of the streams that everywhere threaded the virgin woodland; and the planter drew about him a body of dependants who knew no other master; to whom came, in their seclusion, none of that quick air of change that had so stirred in England throughout all her century of revolution. Some were his slaves, bound to him in perpetual subjection. Others were his tenants, and looked upon him as a sort of patron. In Maryland, where similar broad estates lay upon every shore, the law dubbed a great property here and there a "manor," and suffered it to boast its separate court baron and private jurisdiction. Virginian gentlemen enjoyed independence and authority without need of formal title.

There was but one center of social life in Virginia; at Williamsburg, the village capital, where the governor had his "palace," where stood the colonial college, where there were taverns and the town houses of sundry planters of vicinage, and where there was much gay company and not a little ceremonial in the season. For the rest, the Old Dominion made shift to do without towns. There was no great mart to which all the trade of the colony was drawn. Ships came and went upon each broad river as upon a highway, taking and discharging freight at the private wharves of the several plantations. For every planter was his own merchant, shipping his tobacco to England, and importing thence in return his clothes, his tools, his household fittings, his knowledge of the London fashions and of the game of politics at home. His mechanics he found amongst his own slaves and dependents. 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